



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VA 22092

In Reply Refer To:
WGS-910522
Mail Stop 514

Honorable Larry Pressler
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pressler:

The following information is provided in response to a request from your staff to comment on the proposed transfer of archive responsibility of Landsat data from the Department of Commerce to the Department of the Interior (DOI). As you know, Landsat data have been collected continuously since 1972. The DOI's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has effectively operated the Landsat data archive since that time. In an effort to preserve the archive for future generations, the USGS supports this transfer.

In cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the USGS's EROS Data Center began serving as the principal U.S. archive, processing, and distribution center for Landsat satellite data since the launch of the first satellite in 1972. Section 602 of Public Law 98-365, the Land Remote-Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984, directs the Secretary of Commerce to provide for the archiving of data derived from land remote-sensing technologies for historical, scientific, and technical purposes, including long-term global environmental monitoring. The Secretary of Commerce currently provides for the archiving of these data at the USGS's EROS Data Center through a 1986 Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. Funding to support the archive is provided in the USGS budget. This arrangement is consistent with the provisions of the Commercialization Act, which requires the use of existing Federal Government facilities to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out this archiving responsibility.

The transfer of archiving authority to the Secretary of the Interior is recommended for several reasons. As noted above, these data are already archived at the USGS's EROS Data Center, so the transfer of authority would provide for administrative simplicity in the handling of the data. Little or no expense would be required to effect the transfer of authority.

In addition to Landsat data, the EROS Data Center also maintains archives of aerial photography, digital cartographic data, and other Earth science data that are important for assessing land resources and for long-term global environmental monitoring. The center realizes efficiencies from the use of common technology by archiving these diverse data sets at one location, and users can access them by making a single inquiry at one place.

PAP-2-Land-2001
1991
DL

AUG - 8 1991

IC 8-25

Action	
Info:	LAUER
Watkins	✓
Landis	✓
Metz	✓
DSB	✓
CSB	✓
T&AS	✓
PD&CO	✓
EDSPO	✓
S&AB	✓
Dist.	8/12/91

JUL 30 1991

EDC

Honorable Larry Pressler

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The EROS Data Center is currently developing capabilities to convert Landsat data stored on deteriorating magnetic tapes to a durable long-term medium in order to ensure data availability for the global change science community. We are committed to preserving these data, and we support the transfer of archive responsibility to the DOI so that we will have both fiscal and management control of archive activities.

Your continued support of the Landsat program and the USGS role through the EROS Data Center is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Dallas L. Peck

Director

cc: Gen. Files--MS114
Dir. Chron.--MS114
AS/WS (3)
CLO/WS
C&LA
CL--MS112
NMD Files--MS517
PB&A Reading--MS514
OBPD--MS512 (2)
Chief, EDC
ADC/C&R--MS590

WGS:NMD:RWenc1:jh:7-22-92:ext. 5549

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION REPORT

RECEIVED

Date 7/17/91 Time

Name T. Reed

OFC/Bureau

Congressional
Office of

Name
Sen. Preveler

State
SD

☒ Senator
☐ Congressman
☐ Congresswoman

Contact

Name
Dan Nelson

☒ They called
☐ We called

Nature of request

Sen. Preveler would like a letter from Dallas explaining the need for transferring

Action required

Landcast archiving responsibility from the Dept. of Commerce/NOAA to the Dept. of the

Referred to

Interior/USGS. The letter is needed

Additional comments

by next week.

910522